

Appl. No. 10/022,863
Armdt. dated Nov. 25, 2003
Reply to Office Action of Aug. 28, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1) (Currently amended) A nonwoven material for personal care products comprising a mixture of synthetic fibers of different denier, wherein a first denier fiber is a bicomponent fiber and has an average denier of [[2]] 1 or less, said first fiber has an average denier at least 3 denier less than a second fiber, and said second fiber has an average denier between 4 and 15, and wherein said material has a basis weight between 30 and 200 gsm.

2) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 1 wherein said second denier fiber has a denier between 6 and 15.

3) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 1 wherein said first denier fiber is present in an amount between 25 and 75 weight percent and said second denier fiber is present in an amount between 75 and 25 weight percent.

4) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 1 wherein said first denier fiber is present in an amount between 40 and 60 weight percent and said second denier fiber is present in an amount between 60 and 40 weight percent.

5) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 1 wherein said first denier fiber is present in an amount of about 60 weight percent and said second denier fiber is present in an amount of about 40 weight percent.

6) (Cancelled)

7) (Currently amended) The nonwoven material of claim [[6]] 1 wherein said first denier fiber is a sheath/core bicomponent fiber selected of the group consisting of polyethylene/polypropylene, polyethylene/polyethylene terephthalate and co-polyethylene terephthalate/ polyethylene terephthalate bicomponent fibers.

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8) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 1 wherein said second denier fiber is made from a polyester.

9) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 1 wherein said fibers have a hydrophilic treatment added to the surface of said fibers.

10) (Original) A surge material comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1 and providing an improvement in TEWL of at least 8 percent.

11) (Original) A surge material comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1 and providing an improvement in TEWL of at least 15 percent.

12) (Original) A surge material comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1 having an intake rate of at least 12 cc/sec.

13) (Original) A diaper comprising the material of claim 1.

14) (Original) A training pant comprising the material of claim 1.

15) (Original) An incontinence product comprising the material of claim 1.

16) (Original) A bandage comprising the material of claim 1.

17) (Original) A sanitary napkin comprising the material of claim 1.

18) (Currently amended) A surge material for personal care products comprising a between 40 and 60 weight percent of a first fiber having a first average denier and between 60 and 40 weight percent of a second fiber having a second average denier, wherein said first denier is 1 or less and is at least 3 denier less than said second denier, said second denier is between 4 and 15, and wherein said material has a basis weight between 30 and 200 gsm.

19) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 18 wherein said first denier fiber is a bicomponent fiber.

20) (Original) The nonwoven material of claim 18 wherein said second denier fiber is made from a polyester.

21) (Currently amended) A surge material for personal care products comprising about 60 weight percent of a first fiber in a bicomponent sheath/core configuration, made from polymers

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selected of the group consisting of polyethylene/polypropylene, polyethylene/polyethylene terephalate and co-polyethylene terephalate/ polyethylene terephalate and having a first average denier, and about 40 weight percent of a polyester second fiber having a average second denier, wherein said first denier is 1 or less and is at least 3 denier less than said second denier, said second denier is between 4 and 15, and wherein said material has a basis weight between 30 and 200 gsm.

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